(b) whether any study has been undertaken to find out that the financial assistance given under the different schemes have really gone to the needy groups and if so, the per centtage of persons who have received the assistance, during the last two years and what is the extent of leakages;

(c) what are the causes for the leakages and what efforts are being made to plug the loopholes; and

(d) what steps, if any have been guilty persons responsible for such leakages?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Country-wise assesment of the Poverty Alleviation Programmes both under the 20-point Programmes and outside it to assess how many persons could be raised above the poverty line during the last two years in different States, has not been made. The poverty estimates are based on NSSO survey which was last carried out in 1983. In the case of Integrated Rural Development Proramme, Concurrent Evaluation is being done in 36 districts by 29 reputed research institutions since October, 1985 on a monthly basis. Among the various aspects, the number of persons raised above poverty line is also examined in the Concurrent Evaluation Report.

(b) The Concurrent Evaluation of I.R.D.P. examines the pre-assistance income of the beneficiaries and indicates whether assistance is given to the persons falling in the lowest income bracket. The Report for October, 1985 to September, 1986 shows that 35 per cent of the assisted families belonged to the income group of Re. 1 to Rs. 2265 and 43 per cent of the families to the income group of Rs. 2266—3500. Aabout 13 per cent of the assisted families belonged to the income group of Rs. 3501—4800 and 5 per cent to the income group of Rs. 4801—6400. 4 per cent of the families had income of more than Rs. 6400.

(c) and (d) The extent ol leakage is difficult to quantify. This aspect is not being covered by the Concurrent Evaluation Report. It is however, observed that there was no difference in the assessed and recorded value of the asset in about 67 per cent cases. In 9 per cent of the cases the difference was more than Rs. 1000 and in 5 per cent cases between Rs. 501 and Rs. 1000. Thus, in 14 per cent cases difference of more than Rs. 500 was found which could indicate malpractices and leakages. The result of the concurrent Evaluation have been given to the State Government. The State Governmens who are implemening the Programme are responsible for taking action against guilty persons for such leakages.

USSR's aid to develop atomic energy in India

1140. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that the USSR has offered to develop atomic energy in India; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to utilise the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. K. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The Soviet Union has offered assistance in the construction of a nuclear power station in India. Discussions are continuing on technical, economic and other aspects of the offer.